



# TURTLE TRACKS

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES COUNCIL

WINTER 2019

## ***New Red Door Room at Center***

by Marilyn Gavitt

When I first started working here at the Environmental Studies Center, I found boxes and boxes of photographs taken over the years. As I was organizing and digitizing the photographs, I came upon an old, old picture of the Red Door room. The displays and décor had hardly changed in decades! I imagine that is because it is such a beloved room by our students. They love getting in there and discovering what's in those old jars, playing with the touch and guess box, and walking around with a giant stuffed snake on their heads. However, it was time for an update. Hmmm, what if we could incorporate "the old" in with some new, interactive displays that would enhance learning? Staff loved the idea and we took several field trips to surrounding environmental centers to get some ideas. We were very impressed with Oxbow Eco-center in Fort Pierce and were able to get in touch with their designer, Jim Booth. Jim lives in Pennsylvania so I sent him photos of the room, measurements, and an outline of the dream we have for turning that room around. All it would take

was money! Fast forward 4 years and we are there, thanks to the generosity of our community.

The Red Door project will be a unique exhibit on our campus, and will be quite different from anything seen in our local area. It features a display of three ecosystems: pine flatwoods, wetlands, and river/lagoon coastal, complete with life-like trees, plants, birds, and animals. The room will feature several interactive activities including: Can We Co-exist?, Sensory Tower, The Magnifier, Guess Who, Which Bird?, as well as new display cases for our specimen jars and the incorporation of our existing taxidermy friends. The lessons that we provide the students visiting our classrooms focus on all of these ecosystems, how they interact, and why they are important. The teachers at the Center are knowledgeable in these areas, and will make the best use of the exhibit to ensure the greatest impact on student learning and achievement. No other exhibit on our campus provides such an innovative walk-through educational display! The unveiling will take place at our Spring Open House on April 6th. We hope to see you there!

## Thank you to the Red Door Donors!

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***Please consider leaving a legacy by naming the  
Environmental Studies Council in your estate plans.***



## The Environmental Studies Council, Inc.

2900 NE Indian River Drive  
Jensen Beach, FL 34957  
Council Office: (772) 219-1887 x 121  
Center Office: (772) 219-1887

### Mission Statement

To protect and enhance the education programs of the Environmental Studies Center and to promote and extend environmental awareness through community education.

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## From the desk of the President

On January 16, local environmental advocates, friends and supporters gathered at the Center to celebrate a very special occasion - the induction of Nathaniel P. Reed into the Environmental Studies Council's Hall of Fame.

To sum up the work of Nat Reed is a challenge to say the least - he served as the environmental advisor to six Florida governors, he helped to create the Big Cypress Preserve, and he was the Assistant Secretary of Interior from 1971-1977 where he was responsible for the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act, just to name a few. Nat helped found 1000 Friends of Florida and is a founding member of the Everglades Foundation.

As Maggy Hurchella said, "Our Nat brought together so many different strengths in one overwhelming personality. He learned everything he could about everything he cared about. He knew as much about the Everglades as any scientist. When he didn't know he called on people who did and he listened. He was a master of accurate information and intelligent analysis."

Nat is the first inductee in the Hall of Fame in nearly a decade. His plaque will be placed on the Hall of Fame memorial statue just above his parents, visionary environmental philanthropists Permelia Pryor Reed and Joseph Verner Reed. Nat's son, Adrian Reed, shared his own memories of his father during the ceremony with touching remarks and a reminder to us all to carry forth his hard fought environmental preservation efforts.

We're fortunate in Martin County to be surrounded by several nature preserves and beautiful, unspoiled lands, but it's

easy to forget the advocacy and tireless work of people like Nat Reed to ensure that essential preservation of our environment. Throughout his battles, whether they were for Florida's wetlands or

the polar bears of Alaska, he never became discouraged or gave up the fight. I urge you all to continue those efforts to protect and preserve our lands and waterways. And when you do get discouraged, pay a visit to the Hall of Fame memorial at the Environmental Studies Center and read the inscriptions in memorial of so many environmental heroes. I promise you will feel invigorated and inspired.

Thank you to everyone who joined us in honoring Nat Reed, and especially his family and fellow environmental warriors who shared so many wonderful memories.



Sincerely,  
Kim Waser Nash

## BIOLOGY CORNER

by Kara Muzia

What's not to love about manatees? Their muzzle adorned with long whiskers, a sweet smile seemingly perpetually on their face. Their inquisitive eyes and squishy bodies bring to mind a cuddly teddy bear and here they are, in our Martin County waters, in their nearly thousand pound glory.

Manatees, like dolphins and whales, are marine mammals. This means they produce their own heat, breathe air, and make milk to feed their young. One funny quirk of the manatee is that their teats, where the baby cows get their milk, are actually located in their armpits!

Manatees regularly travel along the Intracoastal waterway. While in the summertime, they are dispersed along the waterway, munching on seagrasses and low hanging foliage such as mangroves, the wintertime provides some of the best manatee sightseeing opportunities!

As the cold northern winds blow and chill the waterways, manatees seek warmer water. Locally, you can find them in protected areas - such as marinas or shallow water bodies - sunning themselves at the top of the water. If you're looking for a fun family trip, the Crystal River area manatees usually hang out by the hundreds in the springs, or a little closer to home, Florida Power and Light's Manatee Lagoon in Riviera Beach is a good place to go! They offer an observation deck where you can see the manatees at a close range as they warm themselves in the heated waters surrounding the plant.

If you're out cruising the waterways, keep in mind the manatees are slow movers, and may not be able to get out of the way of boats. In fact, many manatees have scars from boats; their scar patterns have proven to be the best way to identify individuals. If you're out in our local waterways this winter be sure to be on the lookout for these peaceful creatures!



## YOUTH DRIVEN CINEMA

The Environmental Studies Center is excited to present this year's Youth Driven Cinema (YDC). The mission of YDC is to engage the youth of Martin County in community involvement and environmental awareness through the arts and sciences. Youth Driven Cinema fulfills its mission through an environmentally themed film competition for Martin County students and public film festival that features the competition's best entries.

All public, private, and home school K-12 students in Martin County are encouraged to create and enter their films in the competition. Students can enter their 3 minute film in variety of styles but must incorporate this year's theme, "Saving Florida's Ecosystems." The entry deadline is March 22nd and detailed submission instructions can be found on the YDC website.



A panel of judges scores all of the entries and the top five films in four categories (Elementary, Middle, High School, and School of Fish) will be shown at the YDC Environmental Film Festival on May 10th at 6:30 pm at the Lyric Theatre. The Indian River Lagoon Council has generously donated cash prizes for the top three films in each category. All students attending the festival will also have an opportunity to win a GoPro Hero camera.

Students, families and the general public are encouraged to attend the film festival. Thanks to a generous donor, we are excited to announce FREE admission to the film festival. Tickets may be picked up at the Lyric box office. Donations will be accepted with proceeds supporting Environmental Studies Center summer camp scholarships.

Detailed information including submission instructions and how to get your FREE ticket to the film festival can be found at [www.youthdrivencinema.com](http://www.youthdrivencinema.com).

## Did Your Membership Expire?

Have you renewed your membership to the Environmental Studies Council? These tax-deductible year-long memberships start at just \$25 for individuals and \$250 for businesses. Funding everything from critter food to the salary of a certified teacher, memberships directly support the educational experience presented free for ALL Martin County students. We need your support!

To sign up, log on to [www.escmc.org](http://www.escmc.org)  
or call (772) 219-1887 x 121



## Stokes Science Fair Winner

Congratulations to Rohan Jakhete from South Fork High School, winner of the Stokes Award at the Martin County Science Fair for his project Saving our Waterways: Autonomous Dissolved Oxygen Generation Vehicle. The Environmental Studies Council was proud to present him with the Stokes Award and a \$100 cash prize.



## Wish List

The Environmental Studies Center needs your support! The Center has a current need for:

- Scholarships for students to attend Camp
- Critter food for our residents
- Enjoyment books are on sale now! You can purchase them at the Center for only \$35 to benefit our programs

If you are interested in supporting any of the above opportunities, please contact us at [info@escmc.org](mailto:info@escmc.org) or by calling 772-219-1887 x121. Or stop by the Center - we'd love to see you!



Environmental Studies Council, Inc.  
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WINTER 2019

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## Grandparents Day Brunch

If you are a grandparent and were lucky enough to visit our Center on February 2nd, you were in for a real treat! We opened our gates from 9-12pm for a memory-making morning. A crowd of excited grandparents and children spent time visiting sea creatures, exploring classrooms, arts and crafts, and munching on homemade baked goods.

Natalie's Orchid Island juices and Starbucks coffee were one of the many donations that rounded out our brunch. We

welcomed a special guest, Catherine Bailey, as our children's book author. She livened up the morning with animated readings of her many books. As always, we love our Earthsaver students and couldn't do it without the help of those friendly teenage faces.

Thank you to all teachers, council members and community volunteers...we appreciate you!



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